

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2
INCIDENT NO. 2003-104
DATE: October 24, 2003 TIME: 4:30 PM

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER : **Drought** – Worst conditions appear to be in southern areas of the state.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous situation report.
3. DAMAGES: The National Drought Summary for October 20, 2003, indicated more than half of the statewide pasture and range land in poor to very poor conditions in a triangular area bounded by Kansas, North Dakota and Wisconsin.
4. RESOURCES: No change from previous report.

LOCAL: Agencies monitoring dry conditions include county extension service, fire departments, dispatch centers, law enforcement, county and city maintenance crews, park boards, public works officials and emergency management officials.

STATE: Agencies involved in monitoring drought conditions include the Governor's Office, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management (DEM), the N.D. Forest Service, the N.D. Game and Fish Department, the N.D. Department of Agriculture, the N.D. State Water Commission, the Office of Management Budget, the N.D. Parks and Recreation, the N.D. Department of Transportation and the N.D. Highway Patrol.

FEDERAL: Agencies providing periodic reports include the National Weather Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous report.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On Friday, October 24, Governor John Hoeven requested the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to issue a Secretarial Disaster Designation for 47 North Dakota counties. The Governor made the request due to production losses throughout the state due to varying conditions of drought, severe temperatures,

storms, flooding, wind, ground saturation, tornadoes and high humidity that have occurred since April, 2003. Damage Assessment Reports compiled by the North Dakota USDA Farm Service Agency indicate the following counties meet the criteria for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration: Adams, Barnes, Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Emmons, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Wells and Williams. In order to receive a USDA disaster designation, counties must have a 30 percent or greater crop loss, or at least one farmer in the county must have been denied commercial credit. Of the counties included in the request, 43 have met both criteria, with the four remaining counties qualifying due to significant crop loss. Six additional counties would qualify for Emergency Loan Assistance, according to the contiguous county rule. They are: Benson, Eddy, Foster, Nelson, Pembina and Richland.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Local officials previously requested that state and federal officials pursue USDA assistance for producers impacted by weather-related events.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No additional outside help has been reported.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director